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# **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

## **Heartland Institute Presents More than 16,000 Petitions to Congress: Rein in the EPA Heartland Institute**

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Heartland Institute Presents More than 16,000 Petitions to Congress: Rein in the EPA

Heartland Institute Presents More than 16,000 Petitions to Congress: Rein in the EPA

November 27, 2012

The Heartland Institute on Tuesday held an event on Capitol Hill with Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK) in which it presented petitions signed by more than 16,000 Americans demanding Congress rein in the Environmental Protection Agency .

[Read the op-ed on today's event by Heartland Institute President Joseph Bast at The Daily Caller .]

The preamble of Heartland's petition states, in part:

"EPA has become a rogue agency, spending billions of dollars (approximately \$9 billion in 2012) directly and imposing on individuals and businesses hundreds of billions of dollars in compliance costs. ...

"The toll EPA is now taking on our country is staggering, putting hundreds of thousands of Americans out of work at a time when millions of people are unemployed and our reliance on foreign sources of energy threatens to compromise the nation's security. ...

"The solution is to rein in EPA through deep cuts in the size, power, and cost of the agency."

The petition asks Congress to repeal EPA's authority to regulate carbon dioxide in the name of man-caused "global warming" and demand cost-benefit analysis be applied to all environmental regulations. It also insists EPA reform its politicized and unreliable scientific research program and return to sound science and common sense.

"The toll our EPA is taking on the country is staggering, putting hundreds of thousands of Americans out of work at a time when millions of people are unemployed and our reliance on foreign sources of energy threatens to compromise the nation's security," said Joseph Bast , president of The Heartland Institute. "Now more than 16,000 Americans have signed a petition demanding Congress rein in this rogue agency. It's time for our representatives in Washington heed the message."

The Heartland Institute petition notes that the E PA was created in 1970 to protect the air, land, and waterways of the U.S. from harmful pollution. It goes on to state: "Thanks in part to the agency's efforts, Americans today enjoy a vastly cleaner environment – among the healthiest in the industrialized world. Yet over the years, EPA has become a rogue agency grasping for ever-more illegitimate power that does little or nothing to protect the environment."

Sen. James Inhofe (R-OK) attended the Capitol Hill event to support Heartland's petition drive at a time the EPA is considering even stricter regulations on energy production — especially hydraulic fracturing for natural gas. "Fracking ," as it is often called, has created tens of thousands of jobs in the United States, and energy experts say it could go a long way toward making America more energy-independent.

However, the EPA in a new Obama administration is considering new rules on energy production that could severely restrict fracking — an energy-extraction technology that Inhofe noted got its start in his home state.

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"I happen to be from Oklahoma," Inhofe said. "The first hydraulic fracturing job was done in 1949 in my state of Oklahoma, and there's never been a documented case of ground-water contamination in its history — with over a million applications of hydraulic fracturing."

Another point The Heartland's Institute is pushing in its petition drive to rein in the EPA is the fact state agencies already do a good job protecting the land, air, and water in their jurisdictions. Heartland says putting more regulatory authority into the hands of the states will result in more-sensible and focused environmental management, encourage economic growth, and save taxpayers billions of dollars.

"EPA's budget could safely be cut by 80 percent or more without endangering the environment or human health," Dr. Jay Lehr, science director of The Heartland Institute and a leading authority on water pollution and environmental protection, said in a press release for the petition drive. "Most of what EPA does today could be done better by state government agencies, many of which didn't exist or had much less expertise back in 1970, when EPA was created."

The Heartland Institute will continue to collect petitions — and has, in fact, collected several hundred more since announcing its Capitol Hill event. Congress will be notified of the petition count on a quarterly basis.

[Watch Fox News Channel Coverage of The Heartland Institute EPA petition event on Capitol Hill below.]

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### **Kids Against Animal Cruelty, Started By Teen Actor Lou Wegner, Is One Of Country's Fastest-Growing Rescues Huffington Post, The**

**11/28/2012**

LOS ANGELES -- The person behind one of the country's fastest-growing animal rescues can't even vote yet. And neither can most of the people leading its 10 chapters across the nation.

Lou Wegner, a 16-year-old actor and singer from Columbus, Ohio, started Kids Against Animal Cruelty when he was 14. The organization, which uses social networking to encourage adoptions at high-kill animal shelters, has helped 20,000 pets escape euthanasia in two years.

Lou said he became aware of euthanasia at shelters when he went to Los Angeles to make the short film "Be Good to Eddie Lee." The director suggested that he volunteer at an animal shelter.

Until then, Lou thought shelters were safe havens for strays and lost pets. "It was heartbreaking. All these dogs crying in their cages. Knowing they would be put down broke my heart," he said.

The group started with Lou and his friends, carrying signs on street corners, and a Facebook page with 47 friends. Now it has more than 12,000 U.S. members and 50,000 members, supporters and partner coalitions across the globe, he said.

The group gets a boost whenever Lou hits the red carpet or the airwaves. He had a small role in Clint Eastwood's "Trouble With the Curve," just finished a pilot called "The Thundermans" for Nickelodeon, and co-hosts a weekly Global Voice Broadcasting radio show called "Love That Dog Hollywood! Kids & Animals."

Brenda Barnette, the general manager of the Los Angeles Department of Animal Services who has been on the show, said Lou is "a well-spoken advocate for animals and for peer involvement." At events where he'll be photographed or when the paparazzi are lurking, he's seldom without a T-shirt with a Kids Against Animal Cruelty logo, she said.

With that kind of exposure, the group's goal has become global – getting people to adopt from shelters, to spay and neuter pets, and educating them about pet responsibility, Lou said. He advocates a no-kill policy, and hopes adults will join in because "they know so much more than we do."

The growing popularity of the teen, who is also a member of the pop band Blonde, helped save a shelter dog that might have otherwise been euthanized. Tommy Joe, an 11-month-old black Lab in South Carolina, wasn't too popular when his photo was posted on the group's Facebook page. Lou said the post garnered no likes or comments.

He recalled that the dog "was skinny and he looked sad. I thought he was doomed." So he posted online messages to the dog, drawing attention to its case and leading a group called For the Love of Dogs in Chester, S.C., to save Tommy Joe.

KAAC chapters around the country are run by teens, including a pair of sisters in New York City who worked with several groups to find lost animals and get food to people whose pets were starving in the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy. An Arizona chapter is run by one of Lou's nephews, and a cousin heads the Minnesota chapter.

Lou hopes to have a chapter in every state eventually, "because the bigger the group you work with, the bigger difference you can make."

"They euthanize just as many animals every day as we have saved. It's like throwing a Band-Aid in a river," he said.

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He said there's also the need to educate children who commit cruelty to animals, as in the recent cases of a 12-year-old California boy arrested after police said he got mad at his family's dog and hung it on a door handle. In Las Vegas, police say two 11-year-olds threw rocks at a cat giving birth, killing her six kittens. Lou said he would make those children witness what happens in the euthanasia room at a shelter.

Robin Harmon, who runs a small dog transport program for Best Friends Animal Society Los Angeles and met Lou at a shelter, said she "was especially impressed that at a young age, he could control his feelings and the sadness that we all feel when we are helping at high-kill shelters."

"I have barely been able to do this and I am old enough to be Lou's grandmother," she said.

The sadness is hard to deal with, Lou agreed.

"Saving one keeps you going," he said.

Gisele Bundchen

Although she may be one of the [most beautiful women in the world](http://www.askmen.com/celebs/women/models/15_gisele_bundchen.html), Gisele Bundchen is much more than just a pretty face. Named the [2011 Greenest International Celebrity of the Year](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/27/gisele-best-green-celebrity_n_1115242.html#s429728), Bundchen devotes an extraordinary amount of her time and money to environmental causes. She has been a Goodwill Ambassador for the [United Nations Environment Program](http://www.unep.org/) since 2009, works with the [Brazilian movement A Drop Of Water \(Gota D'água\)](http://vimeo.com/32243308), and is involved in her [hometown's Clean Water Project](http://hqweb.unep.org/gwa/ambassadors/gisele/). And with the Amazon rainforest as one of her main passions, Bundchen co-hosted the Rainforest Alliance annual gala in 2009. For more information on how [Mrs. Bundchen-Brady](http://www.people.com/people/article/0,,20261937,00.htm) stays eco-friendly, [check out her green blog](http://blog.giselebundchen.com.br/en/)!

Video: Stunning Gisele Bundchen Helps the Environment

Gisele Bundchen stays fashionable to represent at a UN environmental summit in New York.

Robert Redford

Actor [Robert Redford](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000602/) is a long time environmental advocate and a trustee of the Natural Resources Defense Council and founder of [the Sundance Institute](http://www.sundance.org/about/).   
A [long time blogger for HuffPost](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-redford/), Redford has written many pieces dissecting the impact of fracking on our planet, and the cozy relationship Big Oil has with the government.   
In a June blog piece, [Redford](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/robert-redford/fossil-fuel-subsidies_b_1605146.html) wrote about energy subsidies and the Rio+20 conference. "We should not be subsidizing the destruction of our planet," Redford affirmed. "Fossil fuels are literally cooking our planet, polluting our air and draining our wallets. Why should we continue to reward companies to do that?"

Top 10 Fun Facts About Robert Redford

Learn 10 fun facts about actor Robert Redford. Redford played on the University of Colorado baseball team as a pitcher.

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He hates watching his own films. He was originally considered for the part of 'Michael Corleone' in 'The Godfather'. Redford founded the 'Sundance Film Festival'.

Adrian Grenier

Adrian Grenier may share good looks and acting chops with his [Entourage](http://www.hbo.com/entourage/index.html) alter-ego Vince, but the similarities end when it comes to extracurricular activities. Unlike the hard-partying Vince, Grenier is an activist who uses his fame to better impact the world around him. He created [a TV show called "Alter Eco"](http://planetgreen.discovery.com/tv/alter-eco/alter-eco.html) for Discovery Channel's Planet Green, [the website SHFT.com](http://www.shft.com/), which promotes sustainable living through various multimedia, and [supports eco-friendly fashion](http://www.mnn.com/lifestyle/natural-beauty-fashion/blogs/adrian-grenier-gets-eco-fashionable). In addition, [he is an Oceana ambassador](http://oceana.org/en/about-us/people-partners/celebrity-supporters/adrian-grenier) and works with [charity:water](http://www.charitywater.org/) to bring safe drinking water to third world countries. And did we mention that [he won the Blue Sky award in 2008](http://www.ecorazzi.com/2008/03/10/adrian-grenier-wins-blue-sky-award-for-environmental-activism/) for his environmental activism?

Entourage's Adrian Grenier Makes a Splash at Charity Event

Adrian Grenier, model and activist Lauren Bush, actress Kristin Chenoweth and a ballroom of glamorous New Yorkers show up at a December 2009 ball to support charity: water, an organization created to help bring clean drinking water to communities around the world.

Meryl Streep

While Streep is often considered one of the greatest screen sirens in history, her passion for environmental health is no act. In 1989, she created [Mothers and Others](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/spotlighthealth/2002-10-18-streep-healthy-kids_x.htm), after reading a Natural Resources Defense Council report regarding pesticides in produce, according to USA Today. The group taught consumers about chemicals and toxins that have become commonplace for non-organic foods. Although [the organization shuttered in 2001](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1594/is_4_12/ai_76020609/), Streep's [fight for environmental food awareness](http://www.usatoday.com/news/health/spotlighthealth/2002-10-18-streep-healthy-kids_x.htm) continues today. She is involved with [Children's Health Environmental Coalition](http://healthychild.org/about/), a group that aims to protect children from toxins in water and food sources.

Top 10 Fun Facts About Meryl Streep

Learn 10 fun facts about actress Meryl Streep. While filming "Death Becomes Her," Meryl unintentionally scarred Goldie Hawn's cheek with a shovel. She inadvertently left her Academy Award for "Kramer vs. Kramer" on the back of a toilet. Streep was raised in New Jersey and graduated from Vassar and the Yale School of Drama. As a teen, she was a cheerleader and homecoming queen.

Mark Ruffalo

A longtime green advocate, things got personal for Mark Ruffalo when hydraulic fracturing or "hydrofracturing" began to disrupt his hometown in upstate New York's Sullivan County. Ruffalo educated himself on the complex practice and has been using his fame to call attention to this destructive method of natural gas extraction. The A-list activist, who founded [Water Defense](http://www.waterdefense.org/), even landed himself on a U.S. terror watch

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list for organizing screenings of a documentary about natural gas drilling. <br> Ruffalo specifically <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alison-rose-levy/northeast-fracking\_b\_968907.html" target="\_hplink">seeks to fight gas companies' positive spin</a> about the arguably destructive practice. In one memorable forum, he challenged their claim that the extraction method would bring much-needed work to low-income communities. "You don't put everyone else in jeopardy just because its going to bring jobs," he said on the local news, "you don't bring your daughter to the red light district because you're having hard times."

### Actor Mark Ruffalo on Hydraulic Fracturing

In an interview for All Terrain, actor Mark Ruffalo discusses his opposition to the natural gas extraction process known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

### Alec Baldwin

Actor and activist <a href="http://www.alecbaldwin.com/" target="\_hplink">Alec Baldwin</a>, know for his role on the sitcom "30 Rock" and for movies like "<a href="http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0318374/" target="\_hplink">The Cooler</a>" and "<a href="http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0407887/" target="\_hplink">The Departed</a>," is a staunch advocate for clean energy. <br> <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/09/02/alec-baldwin-nuclear-power-dirty-energy\_n\_946555.html" target="\_hplink">Baldwin told HuffPost's Lynne Peeples</a>, "The biggest problem in the anti-nuclear movement is the constant big lie, and the constant assertion, metronomic assertion, in the industry, that nuclear is clean power." <br> He also tackled the oil industry, saying, "In fairness, the oil industry is ... a bunch of a very, very smart, very shrewd, very necessary, industrialists who did their part and did what was asked of them to get us to where we are now. Now it's time for them to step aside in terms of their primary role." <br> In April 2011, <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alec-baldwin/the-big-lie-of-clean-nuc\_b\_844161.html" target="\_hplink">Baldwin blogged for HuffPost about nuclear power</a>, writing, "Fukushima shows us that utility companies reap all of the benefits, while we assume all of the risks."

### All Terrain: Alec Baldwin

### Natalie Portman

Portman, a vegetarian since childhood, turned full-on vegan after reading Jonathan Safran Foer's book "Eating Animals" last year (although she went back to being a vegetarian during her pregnancy) . <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/natalie-portman/jonathan-safran-foers-idea\_b\_334407.html" target="\_hplink">She blogged on The Huffington Post</a>, "The human cost of factory farming -- both the compromised welfare of slaughterhouse workers and, even more, the environmental effects of the mass production of animals -- is staggering." <br> She traveled to Rwanda to film <a href="http://www.treehugger.com/files/2007/10/natalie\_portman.php" target="\_hplink">a documentary about endangered gorillas</a>, she's designed her own <a href="http://www.ecorazzi.com/2007/12/25/razzi-snap-natalie-portman-announces-new-vegan-shoe-collection/" target="\_hplink">vegan shoes</a>, and is now even sporting <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/01/07/natalie-portman-reveals-e\_n\_805946.html" target="\_hplink">an eco-friendly engagement ring</a> from husband Benjamin Millepied. Portman's passion for the environment began at a young age - she can even be seen dancing in a very...<em>unique</em> <a href="http://www.treehugger.com/files/2007/06/vintage\_video\_n.php" target="\_hplink">environmental video as a World Patrol Kid</a>.

### Natalie Portman Quits Vegan Diet

Natalie Portman's pregnancy cravings take over as the star ditches her uber strict vegan diet for vegetarianism

### Brad Pitt

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Although he is not the family <a href="http://www.un.org/works/goingon/refugees/angelina\_story .html" target="\_hplink">UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador</a>, Brad Pitt is one of Hollywood's leading green men. The award-winning actor supports many different facets of green activism, namely animal rights, sustainable living, and green building. Pitt co-founded the "<a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/08/31/brad-pitts-make-it-right-\_n\_699620.html" target="\_hplink">Make It Right</a>" foundation, which rebuilds homes in Katrina-torn New Orleans using affordable eco-friendly technology. <br> He also hosted a <a href="http://www.treehugger.com/culture/brad-pitt-hosts-pbs-series-on-green-design.html" target="\_hplink">PBS series</a> focused on green design in 2006, and, together with Angelina Jolie, <a href="http://www.mnn.com/lifestyle/arts-culture/blogs/brad-pitt-angelina-jolie-donate-2m-to-african-wildlife-sanctuary" target="\_hplink">donated \$2 million to the African Wildlife Sanctuary</a>, says MNN.

Kanye and Rihanna Join Brad Pitt to Help the "Make It Right" Foundation

Rihanna, Kanye West, Snoop Dogg and Cheryl Crow join Brad Pitt to help the "Make it Right" foundation raise vital funds for the completion of 150 environmentally friendly homes for victims of 2005's Hurricane Katrina.

George Clooney

When it comes to green activism, George Clooney doesn't mess around. "You don't want to be a spokesperson unless you are absolutely committed to a cause," <a href="http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,166844 6,00.html" target="\_hplink">the actor said in an interview</a> with TIME magazine. And according to his own logic, Clooney is a total environmental buff. MSN reported that after his role in Syriana, Clooney helped launch <a href="http://news.uk.msn.com/environment/green-living/photos.aspx?cp-documentid=150371643&page=5" target="\_hplink">Oil Change</a>, a campaign to diminish America's oil dependence. He is also a major human rights activist, protesting in favor of aid for Sudan and Darfur, and even going so far as to <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/03/16/george-clooney-arrested-dc-\_n\_1353441.html" target="\_hplink">get arrested at a protest in March 2012</a>. Clooney drew <a href="http://www.forbes.com/sites/carolinehoward/2012/03/16/george-clooney-arrested-protesting-darfur-sudan/" target="\_hplink">a parallel between human rights issues and climate disasters</a> in 2010, when he asked <em>Today Show</em>'s Ann Curry "If you knew a tsunami, or Katrina or a Haiti earthquake was coming, what would you do to save people?" The rugged actor also tries to stay green in his everyday life. According to MSN, <a href="http://green.in.msn.com/gallery.aspx?cp-documentid=3680004 &page=4" target="\_hplink">he drives two electric cars</a>, and was the cover photo for <a href="http://www.hollywood.com/news/Clooney\_and\_Roberts\_Go\_Green \_for\_Vanity\_Fair/3488954" target="\_hplink">Vanity Fair's first green issue.</a>

George Clooney Arrested

Actor George Clooney has been arrested following a protest outside the Sudanese embassy in Washington DC.

Leonardo DiCaprio

DiCaprio is a long-standing environmentalist, who sits on the boards of the Natural Resources Defense Council and Global Green USA. He has created <a href="http://www.vanityfair.com/politics/features/2007/05/dicaprio200705" target="\_hplink">the environmental documentary "The 11th Hour,"</a> where he said, "It's clear humans have had a devastating impact on our planet's ecological web of life. Because we've waited, because we've turned our backs on nature's warning signs, and because our political and corporate leaders have consistently ignored the overwhelming scientific evidence, the challenges we face are that much more difficult. We are in the environmental age whether we like it or not." <br> And just this winter, DiCaprio made headlines for surviving a plane scare in order to get to <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/11/23/vladimir-putin-leonardo-d\_n\_787800.html" target="\_hplink">a summit on



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saving the world's tigers</a>, donating \$1 million to the World Wildlife Fund.

### Top 10 Fun Facts About Leonardo DiCaprio

Learn 10 fun facts about actor Leonardo DiCaprio. Originally, Leo's agent wanted him to change his name to Lenny Williams. He revealed he has OCD. He can speak some German. He was named Leonardo after kicking his mom in the womb, while she stared at Leonardo DaVinci's art. As a child, he was fired from the show 'Romper Room' for bad behavior.

### Alicia Silverstone

Once known as the archetypical valley girl Cher in the movie "Clueless," Alicia Silverstone now makes her name as the face of vegan beauty. <a href="http://www.amazon.com/The-Kind-Diet-Simple-Feeling/dp/1\_605296449" target="\_hplink">She wrote a diet book</a> called "The Kind Diet" <a href="http://www.thekindlife.com/about" target="\_hplink">which she says</a> "is about living your healthiest and happiest life to the fullest, while taking care of mama Earth at the same time." She also regularly updates her blog, <a href="http://www.thekindlife.com/" target="\_hplink">The Kind Life</a>, with vegan recipes, beauty tips, and other Earth-friendly finds from the celebrity fashionista. Silverstone recently <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/04/27/alicia-silverstone-pre-chewing\_n\_1458678.html" target="\_hplink">created a cyber-windstorm for pre-chewing her son Bear Blu's food</a>. "It's natural," <a href="http://www.etonline.com/news/121146\_Silverstone\_Responds\_to\_Mouth\_Feeding\_Controversy/index.html" target="\_hplink">she defended herself</a> to <em>Entertainment Tonight</em>.

### Alicia Silverstone's Vegan Food Ideas

Alicia Silverstone shares some of the simple, healthy, delicious meals from The Kind Diet.

### Sting and Trudie Styler

In 1989, Sting and his wife, Trudie Styler, formed the Rainforest Foundation Fund to preserve rainforests and protect indigenous populations within them. "Sting and I founded the Rainforest Fund after seeing with our own eyes the destruction of one of the world's most precious resources," <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/24/elton-john-sting-james-taylor-revlon\_n\_1299749.html" target="\_hplink">Styler was quoted as saying in a HuffPost article</a>. "If we all take action, we can help save the planet and prevent further harm to the rainforests and indigenous people who live there." <br> <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/trudie-styler/why-sting-and-i-set-up-the\_b\_98252.html" target="\_hplink">Styler blogged for HuffPost</a> that she and Sting founded the Rainforest Foundation Fund after flying over the Amazon and meeting people on the ground there. She said, at first, "Sting was criticized for daring to be a rock star who wanted to change the world." But she says their group has worked to successfully protect over 115,000 square kilometers of rainforest.

### Biodynamic Wine with Trudie Styler

Trudie Styler discusses biodynamic wine.

### Daryl Hannah

Actress <a href="http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000435/" target="\_hplink">Daryl Hannah</a>, known for films such as "Blade Runner" and "Splash," has lent her name to several environmental causes. <br> In 2009, she travelled to West Virginia and was arrested while protesting mountaintop removal coal mining. <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/daryl-hannah/why-i-was-arrested-in-coa\_b\_224531.html" target="\_hplink">She wrote

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for HuffPost</a>, "I was honored to be joining an inspiring brave group of concerned Americans." <br> More recently, she was <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/30/daryl-hannah-arrested-keystone-protest\_n\_942072.html" target="\_hplink">one of over 1,200 people arrested</a> in August in front of the White House as part of a Keystone XL pipeline protest.

Daryl Hannah Arrested For Environmental Protest

Actress Daryl Hannah's arrest sparks conversation about a planned oil pipeline in Canada.

Pierce Brosnan

This <a href="http://www.unicef.ie/Content.aspx?PageDetailId=24&AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1" target="\_hplink">UNICEF ambassador</a> is known in Hollywood for his Earth-friendly ways. While Brosnan stays environmentally aware on a daily basis by <a href="http://www.hellomagazine.com/celebrities-news-in-pics/19-05-2009/51565/general/" target="\_hplink">driving a hybrid car</a>, according to Hello! Magazine, he has advocated for sustainable government legislation as well as publicized himself as a major supporter of environmental charities. <br> He's <a href="http://www.people.com/people/article/0,,1549375,00.html" target="\_hplink">protested natural gas facilities</a> near his Malibu home, and according to Treehugger.com, spoken in public forums <a href="http://www.treehugger.com/culture/pierce-brosnan-at-epa-markey-waxman-markey.html" target="\_hplink">in support of the EPA and green legislation</a>. In 1997 he was given an Environmental Leadership Award by Mikhail Gorbachev, and in 2008 Brosnan and his wife Keely Shaye Smith were inducted into the <a href="http://www.ecorazzi.com/2008/10/30/pierce-brosnan-to-be-inducted-into-environmental-hall-of-fame/" target="\_hplink">Environmental Hall of Fame</a>.

Top 10 Fun Facts About Pierce Brosnan

Learn 10 fun facts about actor Pierce Brosnan. He once worked in the circus as a professional fire-eater. He is claustrophobic. Pierce is an avid supporter of same-sex marriage and gay adoption. Pierce was nicknamed 'Colonel Chunky' by the cast of 'Mamma Mia!'.

Woody Harrelson

Actor <a href="http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000437/" target="\_hplink">Woody Harrelson</a> has reportedly been <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/09/23/woody-harrelson-vegan-ac\_n\_295765.html" target="\_hplink">a vegan for nearly 25 years</a>. In fact, for the 2009 film "Zombieland," Harrelson ate a special vegan Twinkie instead of the real thing. <br> Harrelson has also <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20070927/people-woody-harrelson/" target="\_hplink">called for greater activism against oil</a>. Speaking at a media and technology conference in Amsterdam in 2007, Harrelson said, "Certainly (oil companies) just want to get as much out of the ground and make as much money as possible before they transition into anything else. So I still think it's time for some strong activism, especially as it relates to our dependency on oil."

Woody Harrelson Talks Rampart Transformation

The veteran actor opens up about being a jerk and dropping weight to play a corrupt LAPD cop. Costars Robin Wright and Ben Foster also weigh in.

Glenn Close

According to the Mother Nature Network, <a href="http://www.mnn.com/lifestyle/arts-culture/stories/ecologywood-glenn-close-dwayne-the-rock-johnson-eric-stoltz-lucy-lawle" target="\_hplink">Glenn Close is a major puppy activist</a>. She

## EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28

works with not one, but two organizations devoted to helping her canine companions. Close and husband David Shaw founded [Fetchdog.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/02/24/www.fetchdog.com), an online shopping site for doggie treats which donates a portion of the sales to dog related charities. In addition, [Oprah.com](http://www.oprah.com/oprahshow/Puppies-Behind-Bars-Helps-the-Disabled/3) reported that Close is also a staunch supporter of [Puppies Behind Bars](http://www.puppiesbehindbars.org/about.asp), a program that helps service dogs and prisoners have a symbiotic, educational relationship. Close also supports non-canine causes. In 2009, [the ocean conservation group Oceana](http://www.ammado.com/nonprofit/45792/articles/10064) honored her at their annual Sea Change Summer party, noting the actress's [dedication to ocean conservation](http://www.mnn.com/lifestyle/arts-culture/stories/ecollywood-hanging-with-celebs-at-the-oceana-fundraiser).

One Mind For Research Interview With Glenn Close

Glenn Close discusses the impact of Stigma on those with Mental Health disorders.

Colin Firth

Who would've thought Mr. Darcy could be a shopkeeper? Colin Firth has set up various eco-themed shops in Britain. He opened two fair trade cafes called Progreso ([at least one of which closed in 2010](http://www.standard.co.uk/news/new-fears-for-portobello-as-sam-cams-favourite-butchers-join-the-casualty-list-6424931.html)), and [an ecological store called Eco in Chiswick](http://www.treehugger.com/sustainable-product-design/colin-firths-eco-store.html), offering ethical, fair trade goods, as well as expert energy efficiency advice for homeowners. As [an Oxfam's Make Trade Fair campaign supporter](http://www.oxfam.org/en/about/ambassadors/colin-firth), Colin Firth raises awareness on behalf of Ethiopian coffee growers, and lobbies for fair trade in the coffee markets. [According to \*The Times\*](http://women.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/women/the_way_we_live/article2856825.ece), Firth said that "rather than being a luvvie with a lofty opinion preaching to people, I prefer to do things, to get involved, put my money where my mouth is and learn along the way."

The Life and Career of Colin Firth

No lady can resist this Academy Award Winning Brit's sensitivity and charm. Join WatchMojo as we take a look at the career of Colin Firth.

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# **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

**Natural gas producers turn to 'green completion'**  
**philly.com**

**11/27/2012**

Image 1 of 2

A "green completion" system at an EQT Corp. drilling site. The process captures... (MICHAEL S. WIRTZ / Staff )

SYCAMORE, Pa. - The towering flares that turn night into day in the Marcellus Shale gaslands are becoming an increasingly rare sight.

Natural gas producers are turning to new techniques to capture the gas emitted during the well-completion process. In the past, a well's initial production was typically vented or burned off to allow impurities to clear before the well was tied into a pipeline.

Now, more operators are employing reduced-emission completions - a "green completion" - a process in which impurities such as sand, drilling debris, and fluids from hydraulic fracturing are filtered out and the gas is sold, not wasted.

The five gas wells that EQT Corp. completed last month at this remote site in Greene County's Washington Township are typical. Compared to a gas flare, which roars like a jet engine and licks the sky with flame like a giant welder's torch, green completion is dull and quiet.

EQT is not the only drilling company that has embraced green completions. The equipment for separating the gas from the "flowback" has been perfected over the last decade and in the next three years, using it will become standard practice across the nation.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved new rules this year requiring green completions nationwide by 2015, except for exploratory wells unconnected to pipelines. As of Oct. 15, drillers can no longer vent the gas into the atmosphere without burning.

The EPA says green completions will save drillers up to \$19 million a year by capturing natural gas that would be wasted.

The advent of green completions is an example of the rapid development of shale-gas technology, which has revived a flagging domestic energy sector in just a few years.

"What was true yesterday is no longer true today," said Andrew Place, director of public policy research at EQT, based in Pittsburgh. "Systems are evolving."

## **Easing concerns**

Much of the new technology has been driven to address fears about drilling, including hydraulic fracturing, the extraction technique that has turned impermeable shale into a bonanza of oil and gas.

"Public concerns have pushed the engineers to come up with solutions," Place said.

# **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

## **Economist weighs in on WV global energy role West Virginia Public Broadcasting - Online**

**11/27/2012**

Dr. Bernard Weinstein

· Economists predict that construction of another coal-fired power plant in the United States is not likely, but West Virginia is still expected to play a key role in the international and global energy market.

Dr. Bernard Weinstein is an associate director of the McGuire Energy Institute at the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University in Dallas Texas.

"There's an energy revolution occurring in the United States," Weinstein said.

"We've gone from a nation that thought it was energy poor to a nation that's now recognizing that it's energy rich."

Despite recent coal company layoffs in the state, Weinstein expects West Virginia to remain an energy leader.

"Good news is that last year the United States exported record amounts of coal and I expect those numbers volumes increase in the years ahead," he said. "So we have a situation where we are consuming less coal domestically but we will be shipping more and more coal abroad."

"A lot of that will come from the Powder River basin in Wyoming and Montana but a fair amount of that will come from coal mines in the eastern United States including West Virginia."

West Virginia currently stands as the nation's second-biggest coal producer but several companies have announced big layoffs in the past few months.

Workforce West Virginia counted more than 4,700 mine workers filing initial claims earlier this year, but program acting Executive Director Russell Fry told the Associate Press that that number dropped to 2,500 last month.

Fry says that suggests the rest have gone back to work elsewhere and Weinstein's perspective suggests those jobs were found in the gas industry.

"But the real action today in West Virginia is oil and gas production from the Marcellus Shale," he said.

"Those parts of the state that are on the Marcellus shale. There has been a literal revolution in terms of oil natural gas natural gas liquids production particularly in the Western part of the state and that's really adding a new dimension to the economy of West Virginia and is hoping to offset some of the job losses in the coal sector."

Environmentalists have raised concerns about the shortage of oil and gas well inspectors and the environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking."

"I think the important point to note is that there has never been a documented case of ground water contamination as a result of hydraulic fracturing," he said.

"This is the specter that's often raised by environmentalists who are opposed to 'fracking' but the reality is this is not a problem. There have been a couple of cases in which the improper disposal of drilling fluids has polluted surface water

## **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

but there has never been an episode of ground water contamination associated with hydraulic fracturing.”

In 1987 the Environmental Protection Agency concluded in a report that chemicals from hydraulic fracturing of natural gas wells contaminated drinking water used by two Jackson County families. But the effects of hydraulic fracturing are still being investigated. While environmental groups are pushing for more regulations, Weinstein says that could create obstacles for the state's economy.

“As long as the federal government doesn't come up with onerous regulations on shale production,” he said, “as it has with coal production, than I think the future is very very bright.”

The EPA launched its first comprehensive study into the effects of fracking on drinking water in 2010. The preliminary results are expected to be done by the end of this year.

Latest News :

Economist weighs in on WV global energy role

Economists predict that construction of another coal-fired power plant in the United States is not likely, but West Virginia is still expected to play a key role in the international and global energy market.

# **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

## **Fracking industry keeps eye on Obama Washington Times**

**11/27/2012**

The drilling process that has brought U.S. energy independence within reach faces renewed scrutiny from the Obama administration and an uncertain future in many states.

Oil and gas industry leaders remain enthusiastic yet cautious that hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as "fracking," will be fully embraced by the newly re-elected President Obama and state leaders.

Fracking is a controversial but highly successful practice that has unlocked massive amounts of fuel. Endorsements from Mr. Obama and state leaders would make fracking the cornerstone of U.S. energy policy for decades to come.

Industry leaders won't have to wait long for their first clue to what the future holds.

Next month, the Environmental Protection Agency is expected to release a draft of its long-awaited report on suspected links between water pollution and fracking, which uses huge amounts of water, combined with sand and chemical mixtures, to crack underground rock and release trapped oil and gas.

The completed EPA study won't be finished until 2014, but the draft will provide an early indication to which energy path the Obama administration will take in the next four years.

Many in the energy sector, along with congressional Republicans, fear the report will paint fracking in a negative light and give the White House political cover for cracking down on it in the name of science, something environmentalists have hoped for since Mr. Obama came into office in 2009.

But economics may outweigh environmental arguments. Energy leaders now, more than ever, are portraying oil and gas production as a key way of generating tax revenue, spurring job creation and saving the nation from going off the looming "fiscal cliff."

"It's going to take tax reform, but we can't tax our way out of this. It's going to take entitlement reform, but we can't save our way out of this. And we're not going to be able to grow out of this. We need another [way] to make this achievable, and we believe that's energy," said Karen A. Harbert, president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for 21st Century Energy. "Every dollar that we generate from energy is a dollar that we don't have to take out of the Defense Department, the entitlement area, or increase taxes."

Ms. Harbert and others remain optimistic that the White House will recognize that, and they are heartened by what they heard from the president during his campaign. While Republicans and some industry analysts at times have doubted his sincerity, Mr. Obama voiced strong support for expanded oil and gas drilling throughout his race against Republican challenger Mitt Romney.

Politically, it has become increasingly difficult to oppose such expansion, especially in light of research that shows drilling will be vital to the effort to free the U.S. from reliance on Middle Eastern oil.

The International Energy Agency last week predicted that the U.S. will become the world's largest oil producer by the next decade, overtaking Saudi Arabia and putting the nation on course to be energy self-sufficient by 2030. The shift is driven by increases in oil extraction and the production of natural gas, which since 2007 has gone up from 20.2 trillion cubic feet per year to more than 24 trillion cubic feet and likely will go even higher.

The new energy reality, unimaginable even five years ago and driven primarily by fracking, puts pressure on the Obama administration to fully embrace the extraction method and avoid taking steps that could hamper it, analysts say.

"We believe you cannot be for the potential energy development in the U.S. and be against hydraulic fracturing," said Jack Gerard, president of the American Petroleum Institute.

As the White House weighs its options, fights over fracking are heating up in state capitals.

North Carolina Gov.-elect Pat McCrory, a Republican, recently said he plans to get his state "in the energy business," signaling that he will take a different path from that of his predecessor, Gov. Bev Perdue, who vetoed legislation to allow fracking.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo must decide whether to allow the practice in the Empire State, though he continues to equivocate, and it's unclear when he will make a decision. Last month, a coalition of environmental groups sued California to stop fracking, claiming that the toll it may take on water supplies has not been fully studied.

## **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

Meanwhile, states such as Pennsylvania and North Dakota continue to expand drilling, creating tens of thousands of jobs and pumping millions of dollars into local economies.

Any federal action to limit fracking would pour cold water on the growth in those states and give fresh ammunition to the vocal environmental opposition in New York, California and elsewhere. Although some new federal rules and oversight are almost inevitable, many analysts say, the administration can't turn back the tide.

"It's clear that the EPA, the Interior Department, may impose some more regulations on drilling both nationally and on federal lands, but it cannot and will not stop all the momentum. It's too big," Robert Bryce, an energy scholar at the Manhattan Institute, said in a recent interview with Fox News. "The Obama administration would be foolish, absolutely insane, to try and stop it."

Read more: Fracking industry keeps eye on Obama - Washington Times

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/nov/22/fracking-industry-keeps-eye-on-obama/#ixzz2DRnuCr2I>

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# **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

**U.S. natural gas producers go green**  
**iStockAnalyst**

**11/27/2012**

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 27 (UPI) -- Public concern about the extraction of natural gas from U.S. shale formations has prompted energy companies to employ greener solutions, an executive said.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reports that shale gas operators are using a process dubbed green completion, which filters out drilling debris, hydraulic fracturing fluids and other impurities from gas emitted during well completion processes.

Andrew Place, a public policy research director at EQT Corp. in Pittsburgh, told the newspaper that concerns associated with shale oil and gas production in the United States is driving policy.

"Public concerns have pushed the engineers to come up with solutions," he said.

The newspaper states that the Environmental Protection Agency is requiring energy companies to use green completions across the board within the next three years, except where exploratory wells aren't connected to pipelines.

Industry groups such as the American Petroleum Institute have expressed objections to EPA regulations on the oil and gas industry. Environmental advocates said the rules aren't strict enough.

The EPA said drilling could generate roughly \$19 million per year through the method because the process means more gas is sold, rather than flared.

# **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

## **Tests, controversy, more testing Wyoming Tribune-Eagle**

**11/27/2012**

The dispute over whether the oil and gas industry -- namely hydraulic fracturing -- contributed to water contamination near Pavillion has lasted years. Here's a look at how events unfolded:

\*2005-2009: Some Pavillion-area residents worry that nearby drilling is harming their drinking water wells. Encana, the natural gas field's operator, claims the bad water is common to the area.

\*Late 2009-early 2010: After getting complaints from some Pavillion area residents, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency tests 41 drinking water wells in the area.

\*August 2010: The EPA recommends that several Pavillion-area residents with private water wells find other sources for water used in drinking and cooking, after testing shows compounds officials believe shouldn't be in the water.

\*Summer 2010: The EPA drills two monitoring wells in the Encana Oil and Gas-owned Pavillion field in order to test the water and determine whether it had been polluted.

\*March 2011: The Pavillion Working Group, a collection of state and local officials, private citizens and representatives from Encana, begin meeting to determine what information is needed to solve the dispute.

\*November 2011: The EPA releases data from its round of water testing near Pavillion. The testing detected high levels of benzene, methane and other chemicals. Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson said the chemicals may be linked to hydraulic fracturing.

\*November 2011: Midland, Texas-based Legacy Reserves LP backs out of a deal to purchase wells in the Pavillion field, citing the federal investigation.

\*December 2011: The EPA releases a draft report tentatively linking hydraulic fracturing to groundwater contamination near the Pavillion gas field.

\*December 2011: Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead calls for a broader groundwater investigation of the area.

\*January 2011: The EPA extends public comment on the draft report, which was originally set to expire in January.

\*March 2012: Mead signs a bill which allocates \$750,000 to help residents affected by the water controversy. The state would later decide to use the money to construct cisterns.

\*March 2012: The EPA agrees to further testing of its two wells near Pavillion, to clarify questions about the first round of results. The agency agrees to bring in the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct the testing.

\*April 2012: The USGS begins a second round of testing on the wells near Pavillion.

\*June 2012: State oil and gas supervisor Tom Doll says some Pavillion-area residents were motivated by greed while speaking at an industry event in Canada. Doll resigned the next month.

\*September 2012: The USGS releases data from the last round of testing with no analysis. The EPA and industry offer

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differing interpretations of the numbers, with EPA saying they're "generally consistent" with earlier results.

\*October 2012: EPA officials announce another comment period delay, this time to January 2013, at a Pavillion Working Group meeting in Riverton. A long-awaited peer review is also pushed back, likely to January.

\*October 2012: Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality Officials tell a small group of Pavillion-area residents that 14 months of air testing near the field showed no air quality violations. Residents expressed concern over the monitoring equipment's location and elevation.

# **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

## **A sampling of editorials from around New York Austin American-Statesman - Online**

**11/27/2012**

The New York Post on Gov. Andrew Cuomo's latest comments on hydraulic fracturing.

The fix is in; the frack may be out.

Gov. Cuomo confirmed yesterday what nearly everybody suspected: With a three-person panel of health experts named just last week, the state will now miss the Nov. 29 deadline for the Department of Environmental Conservation to issue regulations for the natural-gas extraction process called hydrofracturing, i.e. fracking.

"I don't see how they are going to make a deadline by next week and do it properly," Cuomo told Post state columnist Fredric U. Dicker's radio show.

Ah, as the feet drag.

Cuomo has been talking a responsible fracking game for years now, but this delay could invite another public comment period — translating into further delay, possibly leading to the state's four-year-plus moratorium on fracking never being lifted.

Perhaps that's what the governor wants?

Cuomo sure sounded yesterday like he was now buying into much of the anti-fracking movement's rhetoric: "People don't want to be poisoned," he said, adding, "There's a fear of poisoning."

Seriously? Even the enviro-extremists at the U.S. EPA reject the idea that fracking is unsafe.

He's even dismissing fracking's economic benefits for the economically depressed Upstate region: "There's a great number of people who say jobs aren't going to happen either," asserted the governor.

Pennsylvania's fracking-generated jobs explosion undercuts that argument.

Actually, Cuomo's stalling speaks for itself — and his actual comments amount to prospective rationalizations.

Maybe that's why he also expressed full confidence in a special health-impact study panel that he introduced into the process last week.

Talk about stacked against fracking!

In a Monday letter to Health Commissioner Nirav Shah, who selected the health-review panel, Lee Fuller, executive director of Energy in Depth, notes the public history of the three panelists:

—Lynn Goldman of George Washington University has warned of "troubling health risks in communities near fracking operations . . . toxic chemicals in the water, polluted air and even seismic activity."

—UCLA's Richard Jackson alleges "serious worker exposures . . . will likely cause silicosis and other lethal diseases."

## **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

—John Adgate of the Colorado School of Public Health helped conduct an error-filled study on fracking ultimately dismissed by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

Sure doesn't exactly sound like an "objective" panel.

So, is the fix in?

Inaction can speak louder than words, too.

<http://bit.ly/US7rnl>

The Buffalo News on the Thruway Authority's proposal to raise tolls for trucks.

You know things are bad when the vice chairwoman blasts the New York State Thruway Authority board, and has good reason to do so.

Donna Luh is outraged at the blatant lack of transparency surrounding the authority's ill-forged idea of a 45 percent toll hike for trucks. Tempers are rising after the authority postponed two meetings on the toll hike at the last minute. Luh blew her fuse the other day when word of postponing a board meeting wasn't sent out until after 9 p.m. the night before. The words, "Are you kidding?" crept into her mind, she told The News.

That's what the public wants to know when it comes to this preposterous proposal. A 45 percent toll hike — when tolls were supposed to have been eliminated in 1996, when the highway's original construction debt was paid — is ridiculous. And so is the board meeting shuffle going on that has Luh so upset.

Luh says she's even beginning to think that the 45 percent figure isn't what this state needs. She's not alone.

From truckers to Unshackle Upstate, everyone wants to know what Thruway Authority officials are thinking, other than using the threat of a sky-high increase to ease the eventual blow of, say, a 35 percent increase. Who knows? The Cuomo administration hopes to raise \$90 million in additional revenue for the Thruway Authority. One theory is that it can then skip over to the bond market to help finance a \$5 billion Thruway bridge project over the Hudson River between Westchester and Rockland counties.

Voila! Or, not.

The New York State Motor Truck Association insists that a 45 percent toll hike would cripple some firms and most assuredly result in trucking companies and their clients passing along the cost of the toll increase to consumers. Or some truckers could decide not to take the Thruway, cutting into the anticipated revenue stream.

There are ways around this mess, involving some belt-tightening and getting rid of onerous expenses such as the maintenance costs of a non-Thruway highway in Westchester County and perhaps the biggest farce, the state's money-losing canal system.

The bad idea of using Thruway tolls to pay for the canal was most recently pointed out by State Sen. Patrick M. Gallivan, R-Elma. The Thruway and canal system were joined 20 years ago during the administration of the governor's father, Mario M. Cuomo, as part of a scheme to help balance the state's general fund.

Gallivan has noted that Thruway traffic is down 10 percent in the past seven years while the authority's expenses have risen 20 percent.

## **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli gets extra credit for being at the forefront of the opposition to the toll hike. He is calling on the authority to look for savings by improving its management of the system.

That work involves eliminating vacant positions, reducing overtime and marketing unused property for sale or lease. DiNapoli also cites a recent analysis by auditors in his department that showed more could be done to collect millions of dollars in E-ZPass tolls and fees that go unpaid.

It's time for the Thruway Authority to put the brakes on a bad idea.

<http://bit.ly/QuAUYI>

The New York Times on the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on Michigan's affirmative action policies.

In a persuasive ruling last week, a majority of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit struck down Michigan's ban on race-conscious affirmative action policies. The ban violated the United States Constitution's equal protection clause by placing an unfair burden on racial minorities seeking to change those policies.

The ban, known as Proposal 2 and approved in a state referendum in 2006, amended the State Constitution to "prohibit all sex- and race-based preferences in public education, public employment, and public contracting."

The court's 8-to-7 decision focused not on admissions policies per se but on the fact that the process by which the ban was approved — the referendum leading to a constitutional amendment — would inevitably require people who wished to reverse it "to surmount more formidable obstacles than those faced by other groups to achieve their political objectives."

Writing for the majority, Judge R. Guy Cole Jr. argued that a black student seeking a race-conscious admissions policy would have to undertake the "long, expensive and arduous process" of amending the state constitution all over again. But students seeking to change other admissions policies — for example, to favor applicants whose relatives attended the school — could resort to a variety of readily available means, including lobbying the admissions committee or the university's leaders.

"The existence of such a comparative structural burden," Judge Cole wrote, "undermines the equal protection clause's guarantee that all citizens ought to have equal access to the tools of political change."

The result of the court's sound ruling is a level playing field, as the Constitution demands. But the issue may not be settled. The Ninth Circuit has upheld a California affirmative-action ban that was a model for Michigan's. With a conflict in the circuits on this issue, the Supreme Court may be persuaded it is ripe for review.

<http://nyti.ms/10ciDAV>

The Times Union of Albany on government's handling of post-Superstorm Sandy recovery efforts.

The devastation that remains from Superstorm Sandy can't be overstated. Two weeks after Sandy slammed into the Northeast, more than 50,000 homes and businesses remain without power. Early estimates put the damage in three states at \$50 billion.

The magnitude of the crisis demands that Gov. Andrew Cuomo, his counterparts in New Jersey and Connecticut, and Congress focus on the task at hand — relieving the very real human suffering and doing all they can to help the region recover. Tragedy would be compounded if they were to turn the issue of federal aid into an occasion for haggling or ideological posturing.

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There is ample precedent for us to worry about just that.

In 2001, following the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, then-Gov. George Pataki made an eye-popping \$54 billion request for federal aid. Mr. Pataki's request went far beyond what New York needed for that emergency. The governor larded on some \$20 billion for tax incentives to lure businesses to the state and pay for subways, light rail, roads and bridges statewide. A high-speed passenger rail service between Schenectady and Manhattan was on his list.

Even with the extraordinary sympathy for all New York City had endured, even with a fellow Republican in the White House, Washington balked at Mr. Pataki's opportunism, however well-intentioned it might have been for the benefit of his state.

Listen to how one observer put it:

"When he put (out) a plan for \$54 billion . and he had projects that were in no way connected to the recovery, they said, 'Here comes a local government that is looking to seize this situation for their own financial benefit,' and they recoiled."

That observer was a former U.S. secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Andrew Cuomo.

Now Mr. Cuomo is governor, with a bold request of his own: \$30 billion to cover the cost of Sandy. Not just 75 percent of the cost, as federal aid normally works. He wants it all covered.

If he's to make that case, the governor must remember his own political wisdom in 2001: no games. This is no time to slip pet projects onto the list, or tack on a little extra to make his 2013 budget easier. Washington has problems of its own.

As for Congress, this is not the time to get bogged down in another protracted debate over big government or the nation's debt, not when tens of thousands of Americans are suffering, many of them residents of a state already facing a deficit next year that is hardly in a position to handle this disaster on its own. Trying to score political points in such a crisis ought to be below even Washington's low bar.

If lawmakers really want to do something meaningful, they can start talking about how the nation will cope with what are expected to be more of these kinds of emergencies in the future. That starts, of course, with Republicans in particular acknowledging that a warming world, and human activity's contribution to it, is not some liberal myth, but the consensus of the vast majority of scientists. To ignore this reality in pursuit of wishful thinking is irresponsible.

Then they can start planning for appropriate government help when disaster strikes, and where the money will come from. They can talk, too, about this: Should government be in the business of helping people rebuild vulnerable homes and businesses in flood- and storm-prone coastal areas? Or does it make more sense to return such land to open space and public use? And yes, perhaps they can even have an intelligent discussion about energy policy that doesn't desperately cling to a past dependent on fossil fuels and instead seizes a more sustainable and ultimately more affordable future.

The storm has passed, and so has the election. No more time for games.

<http://bit.ly/TPDqTV>

The Watertown Daily Times on September's attack on the U.S. consulate in Libya.

Congressional inquiries into the attack on the Libyan consulate that claimed four American lives in September call into question claims made by President Obama and the administration about the nature of the assault on the anniversary of 9-11.

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From the beginning, there appeared to be some confusion or miscommunication within the administration about whether the attack was a terrorist plot or a spontaneous demonstration similar to what had been happening in other Muslim countries in response to an online film denigrating Islam. The latter was the administration's position advanced by U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice on television five days after the attack in which Ambassador Chris Stevens and three others died.

President Obama last week angrily denounced attacks on Ambassador Rice by some members of Congress, particularly Sens. John McCain and Lindsey Graham, who said they would try to block her appointment as secretary of state if she were nominated by President Obama.

Retired CIA Director David H. Petraeus told Senate and House intelligence committees in closed-door testimony Friday that he believed almost immediately that the assault on the Benghazi consulate was an organized terrorist attack. According to reports, Mr. Petraeus also told lawmakers about the involvement of militants linked to al-Qaida.

That information was left out of a list of "talking points" prepared by the administration and apparently used by Ambassador Rice. It is not clear who may have altered the talking points. The decision may have been, as some suggest, politically motivated during the presidential campaign, or as others say, to protect anonymous intelligence sources.

Administration officials have said the conflicting comments about the attacks were based on information available at the time. But it remains unclear what the administration knew and when in determining whether it responded appropriately in a timely manner to the attacks and whether there was adequate security at the consulate.

Some details may remain classified, but the congressional investigations should answer the questions.

<http://bit.ly/10t66bv>



# **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

**U.S. natural gas producers go green**  
**UPI.com**

**11/27/2012**

Energy Resources

Published: Nov. 27, 2012 at 7:44 AM

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 27 (UPI) -- Public concern about the extraction of natural gas from U.S. shale formations has prompted energy companies to employ greener solutions, an executive said.

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# **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

**Letters: Rutgers, vaccinations and fracking waste  
Jersey Journal - Online, The**

**11/27/2012**

By Letters to the Editor/The Star-Ledger

Rutgers officially joined the Big Ten conference last week. Tony Kurdzuk/The Star-Ledger

What about floods and waste?

Hurricane Sandy has intensified our concern about Gov. Chris Christie's veto of A575, a bill with bipartisan support that would have prevented hydraulic fracturing waste from entering New Jersey. New Jersey is the nation's most-populated state and Sandy has shown us how fragile our waste treatment systems can be. The Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission treatment plant, disabled by the storm, pumped billions of gallons of raw sewage into local waterways.

Learning how to deal with fracking waste is the biggest threat this process poses to water systems. Will the waste, containing known carcinogens, and whose composition is protected by exemptions to safe drinking water laws and Superfund regulations, affect drinking water? What if a storm-damaged treatment plant had been accepting the by-products from Pennsylvania's fracking industry?

Christie said the bill was premature in light of our "collective understanding of fracking" and we should continue to wait on an EPA impact study. We believe it is premature to move ahead until we have a more informed collective understanding. Should New Jersey be used as the guinea pig in this study?

Diane Burke, Rumson

Poor word choice

Your wonderfully written story, "'Angels are gathering' amid ruins of a Shore town," (Nov. 22) contained one exasperating mistake regarding the 11 children of Charlie and Anna Yurgelonis. Writing "eight of whom are adopted" is not only insensitive, but just plain wrong in terms of verb tense.

As the mother of two fabulous girls who were adopted by my husband and me 14 years ago, I find this is a minor battle I wage with friends and acquaintances.

I have read many articles that bungled the description of the adoption process. As a former reporter and editor myself, I felt the need to suggest a change.

Adoption is not a lifelong state of being. It is merely a process by which children become members of a family. Once that process is complete, parents refer to these new family members simply as their kids. Saying that eight of the Yurgelonis' 11 children were adopted would have been both accurate and enlightened.

Emily M. Smith, Bloomfield

Big Ten caution

With one exception, The Star-Ledger's Nov. 25 editorials and articles praised the move of Rutgers athletics to the Big Ten. The lone exception, by King's College professor Jared Pincin, cautioned reasonably that the move was not as good

# **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing -**

## **Nov. 28**

as it sounded.

Why do New Jersey residents buy this "pie in the sky" thinking? Weren't we fleeced enough by the former Rutgers president, athletic director, football coach and board of governors? Do they really believe Rutgers is going to make enough money to pay back the millions of dollars spent going to nondescript bowl games and the former football coach's exorbitant salary and perks?

Do they really believe Rutgers athletics won't continue to be highly subsidized by our tax dollars? Do the Rutgers students and their parents believe their tuition and costs are not going to increase? Do Rutgers professors really believe their salaries and facilities are going to get better?

If anyone really believes the flimflam, I suggest you ask the student athletes whose sports were dropped allegedly for lack of money. We are being conned again.

Mal Simon, Lincoln Park

What about other sports?

Now that Rutgers has joined the Big Ten and will have money for sports programs, I have not heard a word about restoring the Olympic sports that were cut due to budget problems.

They have no excuse this time. New Jersey waits to hear from you, Rutgers.

Robert De Blasi, Rockaway Township

Missed point on vaccines

In her op-ed ("Ignore scare tactics on vaccinations," Nov. 26), the author failed to address a major point. The debate should not just be over vaccination vs. nonvaccination, but what we are vaccinating our children with.

The post-polio era children of the 1950s, '60s and '70s were routinely vaccinated, without the incidence of autism, asthma and allergy (peanuts, especially) that are reaching epidemic proportions. Has the pharmaceutical industry played on our desire to reduce the childhood trauma of frequent, individual shots by combining many vaccines into one? Or is it the desire to make the most money by adding preservatives to vaccines to lengthen shelf life that is behind these outbreaks?

Why is it that Big Pharma, an industry that donates big bucks to politics, seems to stay well out of the debate over vaccination? Why are they not included in the investigation of the health risks of combination drugs or preservative additions to vaccines? Is the real tactic to blame the parents for their decisions or pit parent against parent in debate, while they keep their hands clean?

Louis A. Alt, Union

Vaccinations too soon

I found Stacy Herlihy's op-ed on vaccination scare tactics an interesting read. I fully agree that, without vaccines, many children would die.

My objection is why we give so many inoculations in that first year or two of life when the nervous system is still developing. Why the rush?

# **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

Deborah Dalton, Livingston

Not about occupation

Regarding the editorial, "Israel's legitimate defense, illegitimate occupation" (Nov. 20), I was bewildered. The author appears to acknowledge that Israel no longer occupies Gaza, having evacuated all Israeli presence in 2005. Rather, if you listen to Hamas leaders, their message has been consistent and clear: They want an end to the blockade of Gaza.

The occupation of the West Bank, which Hamas does not control, is not their primary concern. The idea that the missiles fired from Gaza are because of occupation of the West Bank was invented by the editorial's author. One can debate the legitimacy of occupation of the West Bank, but not that it has anything to do with the barrage of missiles and rockets fired at Israeli cities.

As for the blockade, Israel believes it moral, legal and necessary to stem the flow of weapons to a government hell-bent on Israel's destruction. Can you imagine the assault Israel would suffer without it?

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**Fracking - ICTMN.com**  
**Indian Country Today - Online**

**11/27/2012**

Fracking Suspected in Dallas-Area Earthquakes

ICTMN Staff

October 04, 2012

Fracking, the practice of injecting water laced with noxious chemicals into shale and rock formations to loosen and liberate natural gas and oil that's trapped between the layers, ... [Read More](#)

Dr. Aaron Thomas, Diné, will take up his new position as director of the Native American Research Laboratories at the University of Montana in January... [Read More](#)

The New York Times Profiles Blackfeet Drilling Dilemma

ICTMN Staff

August 16, 2012

The debate over fracking in Blackfeet country has reached the pages of The New York Times ... [Read More](#)

Recently PBS Newshour profiled the issue of private gas drilling on public lands as part of a series the network is doing to study changes in U.S. energy production... [Read More](#)

Natural Gas Deposit in British Columbia Called Biggest in North America

ICTMN Staff

June 29, 2012

Apache Corp. has found a massive gas deposit under a shale field in northern British Columbia, a type of deposit that is often extracted via hydraulic fracturing, or fracking... [Read More](#)

In a column today on [globalresearch.ca](http://globalresearch.ca), Biodiversity and the Environment: Silent Spring For Us? , Dr... [Read More](#)

Interior Department Unveils New Rules for Fracking on Indian Land

ICTMN Staff

May 04, 2012

Environmentalists have complained that the technique of oil extraction known as hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," is too mysterious—drilling companies are often exempt from disc... [Read More](#)

On April 3, tribal leaders met with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Denver to discuss a number of pertinent

# **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

issues, including those related to booming oil and gas expl... [Read More](#)

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**U.S. natural gas producers go green  
Breitbart.com**

**11/27/2012**

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UPI 11/27/2012 12:44:39 PM

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 27 (UPI) --

Public concern about the extraction of natural gas from U.S. shale formations has prompted energy companies to employ greener solutions, an executive said.

The Philadelphia Inquirer reports that shale gas operators are using a process dubbed green completion, which filters out drilling debris, hydraulic fracturing fluids and other impurities from gas emitted during well completion processes.

Andrew Place, a public policy research director at EQT Corp. in Pittsburgh, told the newspaper that concerns associated with shale oil and gas production in the United States is driving policy.

"Public concerns have pushed the engineers to come up with solutions," he said.

The newspaper states that the Environmental Protection Agency is requiring energy companies to use green completions across the board within the next three years, except where exploratory wells aren't connected to pipelines.

Industry groups such as the American Petroleum Institute have expressed objections to EPA regulations on the oil and gas industry. Environmental advocates said the rules aren't strict enough.

The EPA said drilling could generate roughly \$19 million per year through the method because the process means more gas is sold, rather than flared.

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<http://bit.ly/US7rnl>

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<http://nyti.ms/10ciDAV>

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Listen to how one observer put it:

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<http://bit.ly/TPDqTV>

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From the beginning, there appeared to be some confusion or miscommunication within the administration about whether the attack was a terrorist plot or a spontaneous demonstration similar to what had been happening in other Muslim countries in response to an online film denigrating Islam. The latter was the administration's position advanced by U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice on television five days after the attack in which Ambassador Chris Stevens and three others died.

President Obama last week angrily denounced attacks on Ambassador Rice by some members of Congress, particularly Sens. John McCain and Lindsey Graham, who said they would try to block her appointment as secretary of state if she were nominated by President Obama.

Retired CIA Director David H. Petraeus told Senate and House intelligence committees in closed-door testimony Friday that he believed almost immediately that the assault on the Benghazi consulate was an organized terrorist attack. According to reports, Mr. Petraeus also told lawmakers about the involvement of militants linked to al-Qaida.

That information was left out of a list of "talking points" prepared by the administration and apparently used by Ambassador Rice. It is not clear who may have altered the talking points. The decision may have been, as some suggest, politically motivated during the presidential campaign, or as others say, to protect anonymous intelligence sources.

Administration officials have said the conflicting comments about the attacks were based on information available at the time. But it remains unclear what the administration knew and when in determining whether it responded appropriately in a timely manner to the attacks and whether there was adequate security at the consulate.

Some details may remain classified, but the congressional investigations should answer the questions.

<http://bit.ly/10t66bv>

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Congressional inquiries into the attack on the Libyan consulate that claimed four American lives in September call into question claims made by President Obama and the administration about the nature of the assault on the anniversary of 9-11.



## **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

From the beginning, there appeared to be some confusion or miscommunication within the administration about whether the attack was a terrorist plot or a spontaneous demonstration similar to what had been happening in other Muslim countries in response to an online film denigrating Islam. The latter was the administration's position advanced by U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice on television five days after the attack in which Ambassador Chris Stevens and three others died.

President Obama last week angrily denounced attacks on Ambassador Rice by some members of Congress, particularly Sens. John McCain and Lindsey Graham, who said they would try to block her appointment as secretary of state if she were nominated by President Obama.

Retired CIA Director David H. Petraeus told Senate and House intelligence committees in closed-door testimony Friday that he believed almost immediately that the assault on the Benghazi consulate was an organized terrorist attack. According to reports, Mr. Petraeus also told lawmakers about the involvement of militants linked to al-Qaida.

That information was left out of a list of "talking points" prepared by the administration and apparently used by Ambassador Rice. It is not clear who may have altered the talking points. The decision may have been, as some suggest, politically motivated during the presidential campaign, or as others say, to protect anonymous intelligence sources.

Administration officials have said the conflicting comments about the attacks were based on information available at the time. But it remains unclear what the administration knew and when in determining whether it responded appropriately in a timely manner to the attacks and whether there was adequate security at the consulate.

Some details may remain classified, but the congressional investigations should answer the questions.

<http://bit.ly/10t66bv>

# **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

**Reader Forum  
Star-Ledger**

**11/27/2012**

Big Ten caution

With one exception, The Star-Ledger's Nov. 25 editorials and articles praised the move of Rutgers athletics to the Big Ten. The lone exception, by King's College professor Jared Pincin, cautioned reasonably that the move was not as good as it sounded.

Why do New Jersey residents buy this "pie in the sky" thinking? Weren't we fleeced enough by the former Rutgers president, athletic director, football coach and board of governors?

Do they really believe Rutgers is going to make enough money to pay back the millions of dollars spent going to nondescript bowl games and the former football coach's exorbitant salary and perks?

Do they really believe Rutgers athletics won't continue to be highly subsidized by our tax dollars? Do the Rutgers students and their parents believe their tuition and costs are not going to increase? Do Rutgers professors really believe their salaries and facilities are going to get better?

If anyone really believes the flimflam, I suggest you ask the student athletes whose sports were dropped allegedly for lack of money. We are being conned again.

Mal Simon, Lincoln Park

What about other sports?

Now that Rutgers has joined the Big Ten and will have money for sports programs, I have not heard a word about restoring the Olympic sports that were cut due to budget problems.

They have no excuse this time. New Jersey waits to hear from you, Rutgers.

Robert De Blasi, Rockaway Township

Missed point on vaccines

In her op-ed ("Ignore scare tactics on vaccinations," Nov. 26), the author failed to address a major point. The debate should not just be over vaccination vs. nonvaccination, but what we are vaccinating our children with.

The post-polio era children of the 1950s, '60s and '70s were routinely vaccinated, without the incidence of autism, asthma and allergy (peanuts, especially) that are reaching epidemic proportions.

Has the pharmaceutical industry played on our desire to reduce the childhood trauma of frequent, individual shots by combining many vaccines into one? Or is it the desire to make the most money by adding preservatives to vaccines to lengthen shelf life that is behind these outbreaks?

Why is it that Big Pharma, an industry that donates big bucks to politics, seems to stay well out of the debate over vaccination?

# **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing -**

## **Nov. 28**

Why are they not included in the investigation of the health risks of combination drugs or preservative additions to vaccines? Is the real tactic to blame the parents for their decisions or pit parent against parent in debate, while they keep their hands clean?

Louis A. Alt, Union

Vaccinations too soon

I found Stacy Herlihy's op-ed on vaccination scare tactics an interesting read. I fully agree that, without vaccines, many children would die.

My objection is why we give so many inoculations in that first year or two of life when the nervous system is still developing. Why the rush?

Deborah Dalton, Livingston

### **FRACKING CONCERNS**

What about floods and waste?

Hurricane Sandy has intensified our concern about Gov. Chris Christie's veto of A575, a bill with bipartisan support that would have prevented hydraulic fracturing waste from entering New Jersey.

New Jersey is the nation's most-populated state and Sandy has shown us how fragile our waste treatment systems can be. The Passaic Valley Sewage Commission treatment plant, disabled by the storm, pumped billions of gallons of raw sewage into local waterways.

Learning how to deal with fracking waste is the biggest threat this process poses to water systems. Will the waste, containing known carcinogens, and whose composition is protected by exemptions to safe drinking water laws and Superfund regulations, affect drinking water? What if a storm-damaged treatment plant had been accepting the by-products from Pennsylvania's fracking industry?

Christie said the bill was premature in light of our "collective understanding of fracking" and we should continue to wait on an EPA impact study.

We believe it is premature to move ahead until we have a more informed collective understanding. Should New Jersey be used as the guinea pig in this study?

Diane Burke, Rumson

Poor word choice

Your wonderfully written story, " 'Angels are gathering' amid ruins of a Shore town," (Nov. 22) contained one exasperating mistake regarding the 11 children of Charlie and Anna Yurgelonis. Writing "eight of whom are adopted" is not only insensitive, but just plain wrong in terms of verb tense.

As the mother of two fabulous girls who were adopted by my husband and me 14 years ago, I find this is a minor battle I wage with friends and acquaintances.

## **EPA & Hydraulic Fracturing - Nov. 28**

I have read many articles that bungled the description of the adoption process. As a former reporter and editor myself, I felt the need to suggest a change.

Adoption is not a lifelong state of being. It is merely a process by which children become members of a family. Once that process is complete, parents refer to these new family members simply as their kids. Saying that eight of the Yurgelonis' 11 children were adopted would have been both accurate and enlightened.

Emily M. Smith, Bloomfield

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